



A Newsletter for Recycling Coordinators

## South Carolina's top recyclers honored at annual Recycle Guys Awards Program

The top recycling programs, projects and people of 2002 were honored February 11 during the eighth annual Recycle Guys Awards Program held by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office).

Elly Manley of **Horry County** and the **Anderson County Recycling Team** were co-winners of the Jack Hirst Recycling Coordinator of the Year Award.

One of Manley's programs included working with several hundred area businesses that recycle cardboard and office paper to provide technical support, waste assessment and staff training.



Manley

Using a teamwork approach, Vic Carpenter, Greg Smith and Michelle Strange of Anderson County completed several significant recycling projects including new signage at all recycling centers, participated in a tarp and waste reduction pilot program and started a paper recycling program at all public schools in the county.

**Anderson County** was named the Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction and Recycling Program while **Horry County** was named as the Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Program. **Sumter County** was named the Outstanding Local Government Used Oil Recycling Program.

Other winners were: **City of Rock Hill Compost Center**, Outstanding Composting Program (public or private); **Trident Technical College**, Outstanding College or University Waste Reduction and Recycling Program; and the **S.C. Department of Education**, Outstanding State Agency Waste Reduction and Recycling Program.



Stover

John Stover of **Batesburg-Leesville Middle School** was presented the Melba McKenzie Award for outstanding volunteer efforts by a person, group or association.

**Horry County** was given the Outstanding Business Recycling Award (public sector) while Greenwood County was presented an Honorable Mention Award in the same category.

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DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter presents Carla Garland (left) of the S.C. Department of Education the award for Outstanding State Agency Recycling Program.



Horry County's Elly Manley (second from left) was named 2002 Recycling Coordinator of the Year during the Recycle Guys Awards program held in February. The county also received awards for the Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Program and Outstanding Business Recycling Program in the public sector. DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter (center) is pictured with Horry County staff including (from left) Ester Murphy, Manley, Ricky Hardee and Katharine Smith.

# DHEC, International Paper present awards, prizes to Recycling Teacher, School, Family of the Year

**Theresa Dinius** believes in recycling. Now she has others believing. Dinius, who teaches at James Island Middle School, was named Recycling Teacher of the Year at the eighth annual Recycle Guys Awards Program held February 11 by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office).



*Dinius*

Dinius was honored for her overall efforts that began in 1995 with the setting up of a recycling program at her school. The program has grown to include the entire student body – more than 800 students – as well as teachers and staff.

"I feel that as a result of my motivation, students, parents and teachers showed an increased awareness of their responsibility to be part of the solution to environmental problems," Dinius said.

In addition to recognizing Dinius as Recycling Teacher of the Year, other awards were given: Recycling School of the Year and Recycling Family of the Year. **McCormick Elementary School** of Mullins was named the Recycling School of the Year while the **Farmer Family** of Seneca – Greg and Darlene along with children Steven and Elizabeth – were honored as the state's Recycling Family of the Year.

These three awards were offered as part of an environmental education partnership of the Office and International Paper. All three awards required 500-word essays outlining why they should be honored and were promoted in conjunction with the state's America Recycles Day activities.



*Students and teachers from McCormick Elementary School (MES) accepted their award for Recycling School of the Year from DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter (back row, right). MES also received a check for \$1,000 courtesy of International Paper.*

Dinius began a "Recycle Right" team at the school in 1995. This past year, 55 students were involved in the actual curbside recycling at the school, but the entire student body as well as teachers and staff participated. The program worked well. More than 1,500 pounds of paper, aluminum, glass and plastic are recycled every month. In addition, Dinius began a program to recycle inkjet cartridges, textbooks, clothing and cardboard. The school promotes recycling through classroom instruction, field trips to the recycling center and Earth Day and America Recycles Day celebrations. Students used data from surveys and interviews to make posters and brochures about recycling. Several students did science fair projects on recycling and waste reduction and composting projects at home.

Dinius will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the National Recycling Coalition's annual symposium set for Baltimore from Sept. 14-17, 2003, courtesy of International Paper.

**McCormick Elementary School** in Mullins wanted to recycle, had problems, but did not give up and found partners to make it work. The work did not go unnoticed as McCormick Elementary School was named Recycling School of the Year.

The school, which began its recycling initiative four years ago, collects paper, aluminum cans, plastic bags and printer cartridges. The paper recycling project is done as an extension of math and science. Students weigh the paper, complete graphs on the results and determine grade level winners. The class with the most recycled paper each week receives a letter from the word "Green." Any class that spells "Green" during the semester gets a pizza party. The school also buys recycled content paper whenever possible and encourages students to do the same.

McCormick Elementary School also developed a partnership with the local fire department and the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children program. In addition, the school recycles aluminum cans to help dialysis patients and the local Habitat for Humanity as part of its Kids Helping Kids initiative. The school recycles plastic bags in partnership with the local Bi-Lo and paper bags at Halloween, decorating the bags and handing out the bags at the store. In addition, the school recycles printer cartridges and promotes the program throughout the community in an effort to collect more cartridges.

The school will receive \$1,000 for educational materials and 20 boxes – 100,000 sheets – of recycled content paper, courtesy of International Paper.

**The Farmer Family** of Seneca was honored based on the essay written by **Steven** and won \$1,000 courtesy of International Paper. Steven, a fifth-grade student in Betsy Redmond's class at Northside Elementary School, wrote the winning essay. The Farmer Family, according to Steven, reuses and recycles "everything we can." The family's recycling program includes the traditional recyclables collected at the curb including aluminum cans, bottles and paper. But the family also creatively reuses materials. Old business cards are turned into flash cards for spelling and math. A milk jug and two bolts became part of a



Halloween costume. Old sheets are turned into rags for cleaning. Other materials are made into holiday ornaments and decorations.

Each member of the family plays an important part in recycling. One job is to take the recycling bin to the curb. Another is to break down the cardboard to make it easier to be picked up. "It (recycling) is not a one-person job. It takes the whole family, and that's why my family should be the Recycling Family of the Year," wrote Steven.



The Farmer Family was named 2002 Recycling Family of the Year during the Recycle Guys Awards Program in February. Steven Farmer (front left) holds a \$1,000 check presented by International Paper's Paula Webster (front right) for his essay about how his family recycles every day. The family also received a trophy presented by DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter (front center). Also pictured (from back left) are Elizabeth, Darlene and Greg Farmer.

## Awards, continued from page 1

**Nucor Steel** was selected as Outstanding Industry Recycling Program (manufacturing sector) for its exemplary efforts to recycle more than 2.8 million tons of scrap metal last year at its two South Carolina facilities. The company also has instituted a significant waste reduction plan that sells its mill scale by-products to a local cement company for use as an aggregate in concrete. This initiative has kept more than 14,000 tons of mill scale from being landfilled. In addition, Nucor developed a program with the local Special Needs and Disabilities Board to manage its recyclable materials including cardboard, paper and plastics. Clients of the program separate and bale the materials, and proceeds from the sale of these items benefit the program's clients.

**Lexington Medical Center** was recognized as a leader in the Outstanding Industry Recycling category (service sector) for its efforts to recycle and reduce waste not only at its main campus, a 300-bed facility, but also at 29 affiliated physician practices and seven community medical centers. For 10 years, the hospital has aggressively looked for ways to reduce waste as well as disposal costs and achieved success through a comprehensive program that incorporates waste prevention, reuse and recycling. Not only has Lexington Medical Center avoided more than \$9,000 a year in disposal fees, but revenues generated through its recycling program, more than \$2,500 in just the first nine months of 2002, have benefited its employees' emergency fund.

## EDITOR'S FOCUS

*"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."*

*- Derek Bok, Harvard professor*

**A**t the recent Recycle Guys Awards luncheon, several programs were recognized as outstanding in various categories. The Office wishes to congratulate them on their accomplishments. And I would suspect, with many of these top programs, comes education – and lots of it.

Recycling and waste reduction programs aren't successful unless people participate. You can have the cleanest drop-off site or collect every recyclable out there. But it won't do you a bit of good unless residents know **where** it is, **what** they can bring and **when** they can bring it. How do you accomplish that? Through public education, of course.

For example, despite having lived in the same home for 16 years, my husband still has questions about what can and cannot be placed in the curbside recycling bin. Absent minded? Perhaps. Uncommon? Doubtful.

In a society where we are inundated with information, we tend to forget things. My husband included. The point is, you can never educate your residents too much. Whether they are lifelong residents or frequent movers, people need to be reminded of the rules of recycling. For example, recycle plastic bottles with a screw cap only; no butter tubs. Remember to rinse and flatten. All glass bottles and jars are acceptable. Recycle newspaper *and* inserts.

Keeping your message simple *but* consistent and repeating it over and over again will give you a starting point for the difficult task of educating your community. For example, create a message and stick with it. Incorporate it into everything you do from letterhead to radio to public appearances. Repeat. Repeat again. And when you think you have spread the word enough, have another go at it. Attend festivals, partner with your local school district, find a local newspaper or television contact. Take advantage of yearly events like America Recycles Day and Earth Day.

And yes, I am aware of the budget issues many of you are facing but that is when it is time to get creative. Get support from local companies. Not enough time in your schedule? Then organize a group of volunteers that can speak to classes and local civic groups, and make public appearances on your behalf. In addition, our Office will gladly provide support, whether it is layout and design of your county recycling brochure, providing general information handouts or helping you organize your own public education program. And don't forget your peers – there are some terrific public education examples in South Carolina's local governments – with and without significant budgets. Work with what you have rather than lamenting about what you don't have.

Despite your best intentions, a flier or magnet every five years will not cut it when it comes to educating the public. Educating your residents can be expensive, but not educating them, and assuming they already know, is foolish.

*Elizabeth Rosinski, Editor*

## County Updates

The City of Rock Hill has partnered with several area agencies to conduct a pilot program for apartment recycling. The program is funded through a grant from Keystone, an area agency dealing with substance abuse. The youth volunteers are from the Boyd Hill unit of the Boys and Girls Clubs.

The youth groups chose recycling as their community project and arranged through the City of Rock Hill to provide apartment baskets for the residents to collect recyclables and to put roll-outs at the Boyd Hill Recreation Center, where the Boys and Girls Club is housed. The youths collect the recyclables and take them to the roll-outs to be picked up weekly. The Rock Hill Housing Authority also supports this pilot project.

All **Greenville County** office employees received recycling bins in September to collect office paper and cardboard. By the end of the year, 24 tons of paper had been recycled and the county received \$1,460 in revenues. In addition, disposal costs were reduced through this county-wide effort. Due to the great response, a baler was installed at County Square to bale the paper and cardboard for pick up by Visy Recycling. The baler reduces the bulk of the paper and allows the county to receive revenues for their efforts.

**Oconee County** promoted its mulch program in March. In conjunction with that, the county held its first Compost Bin Sale on Saturday, March 22 at The Home Depot in Seneca. Norseman Plastics provided Earth Machine compost bins and kitchen pails. The bins were sold for \$35.

In addition, Oconee County will hold its third annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, April 12 at West Oak High School.

And finally, the county will be distributing "It's Illegal to Go Topless" brochures and promote the need for trucks to use tarps in May to support Zero Tolerance For Litter and the Great American Trash Bash. For more information, call (864) 888-1440.

## Three South Carolinians win national America Recycles Day prizes

Six lucky individuals, including three South Carolinians, who pledged to increase their recycling on America Recycles Day, November 15, were handsomely rewarded at a prize drawing in Washington D.C.

"Thousands of Americans pledged to us that they would increase their recycling activities and with this annual event we show our appreciation to them," said America Recycles Day national manager, Steve Kullen. America Recycles Day hosts the annual event to encourage recycling, promote the purchasing of recycled products and to acknowledge recycling activity in communities across the country.



Aluminum 24-speed Trek sport bikes, donated by Premier National Sponsor Alcan Aluminum Corporation, were awarded to five winners – two adults and three youths. A sixth winner received a \$250 gift certificate from Staples, Inc.

Youth winners of the aluminum bicycles were: Breanna Fullard, Sumter, SC; Madison Clark, Granby, CT; and Daniel Coon, Emporia, KS. Adult winners included: Michelle Hannah, Beaufort, SC and Walter Theefs, Morton Grove, IL. The winner of the Staples, Inc. gift certificate was Julia Robbins of Rock Hill, SC.



*Breanna Fullard from Sumter County won a new bicycle as part of the national drawing for America Recycles Day. She completed a recycling challenge card, pledging to reduce waste, recycle more and buy products made from recycled content materials. Pictured above with Fullard is her younger brother and Sumter County Recycling Coordinator Karen Hyatt.*



# GROW promotes waste reduction through gardening, yard care

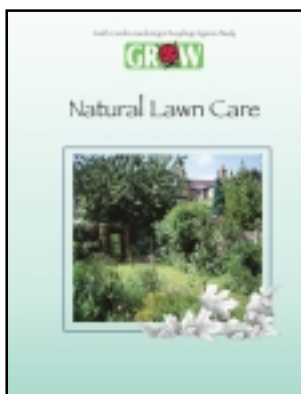
A Train-the-Trainers workshop was held Feb. 26 for GROW – Gardening and Recycling Organics Wisely. Master Gardeners, Clemson Cooperative Extension Agents and Soil and Water Conservation District educators were trained on the comprehensive curriculum that encourages waste reduction through composting, lower garden maintenance by appropriate planting and improved soil fertility, less use of toxic products and grasscycling. A GROW workshop can serve as a stand alone outreach program or supplement an existing composting program.

"Trainers have been taught and the program is ready to go," said Joan Williams, GROW Steering Committee chairperson, following the one-day workshop. "We are excited to be able to offer a program that will educate South Carolinians on the benefits of waste reduction through gardening and yard care."

The program is offered to local governments in all 46 counties. Trainers and materials, including a 60-page curriculum, are provided at no cost. Recycling coordinators are asked to organize and promote the workshop. A minimum of 10 participants is required. Currently, there are 12 counties that are home to trainers who also are willing to drive to neighboring counties for a GROW workshop. Depending on the level of interest, the program can run a half or whole day.

Residents are more likely to practice backyard composting as a waste reduction strategy if they understand its connection to their other areas of interest such as improving the quality of the plants and flowers and beautifying their landscapes. As a way to get started, coordinators should consider targeting volunteers in their community who have either an interest in gardening or recycling and waste reduction.

To schedule a workshop, contact Joan Williams at (803) 896-4234 or e-mail [williajf@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:williajf@dhec.sc.gov) for a list of trainers available in your area.



*The "GROW Handbook" is comprised of six chapters covering the following topics: soil enrichment; home composting; watering and water conservation; pest, disease and weed control; choosing the correction plants for your garden; and natural lawn care.*

## Got metal?

Homeowners and businesses throughout the state will have the opportunity to recycle scrap metal on Saturday, April 12, as South Carolina celebrates the Great American Clean-up. The Great American Clean-up, the country's largest annual community improvement program, is held each spring in an effort to clean up, beautify and improve neighborhoods.

SMI Steel and CMC Scrap Group East, sponsors of the event, will accept scrap metal from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at five scrap yards in South Carolina. Drop off locations will be:

- Cayce (603 Godley St.);
- Florence (220 W. Ashby Rd.);
- Lexington (2308 Two Notch Rd.);
- N. Augusta (1119 Atomic Rd.); and
- Spartanburg (7931 Valley Falls Rd.).

The public is invited to bring any scrap metal - including old bicycles, automobiles, appliances, swing sets and food cans - to one of these locations. Individuals dropping off more than 100 pounds of scrap metal will be paid \$1.50 per 100 pounds of scrap metal.

Refrigerants must be removed from appliances before being brought to one of the scrap yards. Tires, batteries, gasoline tanks and air conditioners must be removed from automobiles. The following items will not be accepted: compressed gas cylinders, ammunition, batteries, ballasts, fluorescent lamps, motor oil and other liquids, paints, chemicals, drums, tires, yard debris and household waste. Appliances and cars that contain refrigerants will not be accepted. In addition, items that are not properly drained of all liquids will not be accepted. If you would like more information on what is accepted or directions to one of the five locations, please call 1-800-768-7348.

Other sponsors of the event include Keep South Carolina Beautiful and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

# Krumsiek appointed new CRA executive director; Foster joins Charleston County

Kerry Krumsiek has been named the executive director of the Carolina Recycling Association (CRA). His responsibilities include oversight of daily operations, staffing, assisting CRA councils and committees, supporting all CRA projects such as the annual conference and workshops, fund-raising, grants and financial duties.

Krumsiek arrived in North Carolina in May of 2000, working in Research Triangle Park for a large corporation providing contracted waste management and recycling services to Nortel Networks. He came to North Carolina from New Mexico State University (NMSU) where he developed a new waste management program which included campus-wide recycling and composting operations. Prior to his work at NMSU, Krumsiek implemented an integrated county recycling system for the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority, a coalition government formed to share costs on the first state-of-the-art landfill sited in New Mexico.

As a founding member of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition, Krumsiek also has gained experience in the leadership and organizational development of a non-profit. He can be reached at (919) 545-9050.

John Foster has been hired as the new recycling coordinator for Charleston County. He can be reached at (843) 720-7111 or by e-mail at [jfoster@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:jfoster@charlestoncounty.org).

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## RC Calendar: April-June 2003

April 3 .....	Green Driver Project Presentation, Fairfield Central High School
April 7 .....	Green Driver Project Presentation, Lee Central High School
April 9 .....	Green Driver Project Presentation, Lower Richland High School
April 12 .....	The Great American Clean-up – scrap metal recycling (five locations)
April 12 .....	Household Hazardous Materials Collection, West Oak High School, Westminster
April 15 .....	THIRD QUARTER GRANT REPORTS DUE
April 19 ....	Fort Jackson Earth Day Jamboree, Fort Jackson
April 21 .....	"Action for a cleaner tomorrow" Environmental Curriculum Training, Laurens School District
April 22 .....	Earth Day*
April 22 .....	"Earth Today" Television Program, 1 p.m. on SCETV and PBS stations nationwide
April 22 .....	Earth Day Festival, USC, Columbia
April 26 .....	Kids Day North Augusta
April 26 .....	Earth Day Irmo
April 26 .....	Earth Day Birthday, Rock Hill
May 14 .....	Resource Conservation Challenge Workshop, S.C. State Museum
May 15 .....	Energy 2 Learn Summer Workshop Registration Deadline
June 25 .....	Energy 2 Learn Summer Workshop

\* For a complete list of Earth Day activities around the state, visit [www.scdhec.net/earthday](http://www.scdhec.net/earthday).

**NOTE:** Recycling coordinators are encouraged to attend "Action" trainings and Green Driver presentations that take place in their county. It is a good opportunity to network with teachers and students in your community. To learn more, call Angie Perry at 1-800-326-2630.



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